

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An implantable gastric band for treatment of a medical condition, the band, comprising
 - (a) a strap configured to encircle an anatomical passageway, said strap having an inner and outer surface;
 - (b) first and second end portions disposed at either end of said strap, said first and second end portions configured to be attached to each other so as to secure said strap encircling the anatomical passageway, said first and second end portions including respective inner and outer surfaces which correspond to said inner and outer surfaces of said strap;
 - (c) at least one of said first and second end portions comprising a non-mechanical attachment mechanism configured to attach said first end portion to said second end portion so as to secure said strap adjacent the anatomical passageway.
2. (original) The band of claim 1, wherein said first end portion carries either hook or loop material and said second end portion carries the other of hook or loop material.
3. (original) The band of claim 1, wherein said inner surface of said first end portion carries either hook or loop material and said outer surface of said second end portion carries the other of hook or loop material.
4. (original) The band of claim 1, wherein said inner surface of said first end portion carries either hook or loop material and said inner surface of said second end portion carries the other of hook or loop material.
5. (original) The band of claim 1, wherein said non-mechanical attachment mechanism comprises magnetic material.

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6. (original) The band of claim 5, wherein said first and second end portions comprise said magnetic material.
7. (original) The band of claim 6, wherein at least one of said first and second end portions comprise a magnet.
8. (original) The band of claim 5, wherein at least one of said first and second end portions comprise magnetic material embedded therein.
9. (original) The band of claim 1, wherein said non-mechanical attachment mechanism comprises adhesive.
10. (original) The band of claim 1, wherein one of said inner and outer surfaces of said first end portion carries a first adhesive and one of said inner and outer surfaces of said second end portion carries a second adhesive, whereby said first and second adhesives adhere to each other upon mutual contact.
11. (original) The band of claim 10, wherein said first and second adhesives are configured to cure upon contact with each other.
12. (original) The band of claim 1, wherein said non-mechanical attachment mechanism comprises said first and second end portions being configured to be attached to each other by energy bonding.
13. A method of implanting a gastric band for treatment of a medical condition, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) providing a strap configured to encircle a portion of the stomach ~~an anatomical passageway~~, said strap having:
 - (i) an inner and outer surface;

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- (ii) first and second end portions disposed at either end of said strap, said first and second end portions including respective inner and outer surfaces which correspond to said inner and outer surfaces of said strap;
 - (b) encircling a portion of the stomach ~~anatomical passageway~~ with said strap;
 - (c) locating said first end portion adjacent said second end portion so that an interface is formed therebetween; and
 - (d) applying energy to said interface until said first and second end portions are securely attached together.
14. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein said respective inner surfaces said first and second end portions are disposed adjacent each other.
15. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the energy applied in the step of applying energy is chosen from the group consisting of vibratory energy, RF energy, ultrasonic energy, harmonic energy and thermal energy.